

explorer had ever previously entered this area, which had been visited only by hunters of musk deer."

The expedition is collecting plants, fossils, insects, and reptiles.

NEW WEATHER EXHIBIT

At 9:30 MONDAY MORNING, July 16, Mr. E. L. Felton, District Supervisor of the United States Weather Bureau, and Dr. Robert C. Miller, Director of the Academy, opened a new weather exhibit in the Hall of Science. It is a compact, working meteorological station with anemometers, maximum and minimum thermometers, barometers, humidity charts, and a rain gauge.

Equipment installed on the roof of the new building by the U. S. Weather Bureau records on an instrument panel in the Hall of Astronomy, recording actual weather conditions in Golden Gate Park.

A cloud chart, also a part of the exhibit, illustrates a number of cloud formations named according to the system in international use in meteorology.

NEW SERVICE TO MEMBERS

MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY who particularly enjoyed some one of last season's SCIENCE IN ACTION telecasts may obtain scripts by writing the Academy, indicating the program script they wish. This offer is limited by the number of scripts on hand, but as an added service to Academy members the television department will try to fill these special requests.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council has approved the applications of Mr. J. A. Holmes, Mr. William B. Sanborn, Dr. George F. Sherman, and Mr. Paul James Stoll for REGULAR MEMBERSHIP, and of Kathleen Ahern, Garret Bush, Maryellen McSweeney, William Wade Pope, and Jay W. Santos for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after July 19, they will be considered elected.

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Courtesy National Park Service

MAUNA LOA

Hawaii's famous volcano sends up a smoke signal

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July Announcement

THE REGULAR JULY MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium in the Academy's Hall of Science, Golden Gate Park, on Wednesday, July 25, at 8 o'clock. Mr. Harold Stein will present a natural-color film on

RECENT VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS OF MAUNA LOA

Mr. Stein returns to the Academy after an absence of nearly 20 years—years devoted to his profession of social science researcher and to his avocation of nature study.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, Harold Stein's Sunday lectures drew capacity crowds to the old auditorium in North American Hall. Now he will bring a first-hand account of the eruptions of Hawaii's famed and fabled volcano, Mauna Loa.

Mr. Stein was a fascinated observer when Mauna Loa's flank eruption in 1950 destroyed the village of Hookena. In a night flight over the incandescent inferno of the volcano, he shared the sentiments of a fellow-passenger who whispered in awe, "After seeing this, I pray I never stray from the straight and narrow path."

The movies, made in color by the National Park Service, faithfully capture the elemental grandeur of the eruptions of 1949 and 1950.

THE BEST CIRCLE

THE ACADEMY'S PRESIDENT, Francis P. Farquhar, and his wife, have descended from Mt. Olympus and rejoined their mortal fellows in San Francisco. Mt. Olympus was one of the high spots in their flight around the world. Their letters from Manila, Hong Kong, Bangkok, New Delhi, Baghdad, Beirut, Istanbul are filled with their adventures in ancient "souks" (bazaars), modern airports, exotic homes, and historic ruins.

President Farquhar presented seeds and cones from *Sequoia gigantea* to scientists and government officials, sowing good will and friendship around the world.

Mr. Farquhar has promised to tell of his trip at a monthly meeting soon. But we'll pass along a few excerpts from his letters as a foretaste of this coming attraction:

Bangkok, Siam

"The Marble Temple (in perfect condition) took our breaths away and used up many feet of film. Gold-leaf is used extensively and, with the inlaid colored mirrors, the ornate grandeur is striking and beautiful. There are three corridors of Buddha statues, varying in mood and position. . . . Inside the Temple is a large gold-leaf Buddha, with all the offerings at its feet. . . ."

Baghdad, Iraq

"Marj and Doris and Jane, wrapped in black abbas, with one eye and a nose each visible to the masculine gaze, were escorted to the great Shia Mosque of Al Kadhmain, by one of the Faithful. It would not have been safe for unbelieving males to enter and even the ladies had to leave before too long as their presence seemed to attract attention. . . ."

"At Babylon we wandered through the ruins and looked in vain for the hanging gardens. There was writing on the walls but we were unable to decipher Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin. . . . That night we took a train for Kirkuk in lower Kurdistan. . . ."

Athens

"Baghdad—ancient and romantic, modern and aromatic—faded away behind us. The waters of the twin rivers, Tigris and Euphrates, flowed slowly on their way toward Basrah and the Persian Gulf; while we, more swiftly, soared over the utterly barren sands of the Arabian desert. . . . Then the scene changed. Great curving ridges of limestone appeared, and presently oases could be seen. . . . To the south Mount Hermon was unmistakable with its snowy crown—a source of many waters, hence of flood and of cities, the greatest of which is Damascus. . . . Suddenly the blue Mediterranean lay below us. . . ."

Armchair travelers will now pause for a moment of wishful thinking. If we can't make the trip, we can console ourselves with the knowledge that our president travels in the best circle—the great circle.

ACADEMY'S HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION

THE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE and Colleges of the Government of India is coöperating with the California Academy of Sciences in its expedition into an unexplored area of the Himalayas near the Tibetan border.

While in India, Mr. Farquhar arranged with Mr. F. A. Charlton-Thomas of New Delhi to lead an Academy collecting and exploring expedition into this area which has never before been visited by outsiders.

A report from the expedition dated June 1 states that it "has now reached a most inaccessible and unexplored valley high in the Panch Chule Himalaya. . . . Among the discoveries . . . is a center of vigorous thermal activity within sight of great peaks and glaciers.

"From Madkot, a tiny Himalayan village, two parties of eight porters each carried the Expedition equipment along the edges of gaunt cliffs and through a great defile so difficult that in three days only 11½ miles were covered. No